

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 200651
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/AND:RSSTEVEN

APPROVED BY ARA:FMCNEIL

ARA/AND:MRBARNEBEY

JUSTICE:EMPROPPER

D:SOXMAN (SUBS)

S/S-O:SGOLDSMITH

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

ARA, D, P AND L ONLY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 200651

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, CI, RO

SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION CASE

REFERENCE: BUCHAREST 5503

1. WE APPRECIATE YOUR PROMPT AND DETAILED REPORT ON VALENZUELA COMMENTS ON LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE. MESSAGES ON SENSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE CASE HAVE BEEN GIVEN VERY RESTRICTED DISTRIBUTION, AND YOU ARE REQUESTED IN FUTURE TRAFFIC ON THIS SUBJECT TO USE INDICATORS SECRET, EXDIS, STADIS, FOR ARA, D, P, AND L ONLY.

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2. VALENZUELA'S CLAIMS CONTRADICT VIRTUALLY ALL REPORTS FROM OTHER SOURCES WHICH HAVE PINOCHET AT PRESENT STRONGLY OPPOSED TO EXTRADITION OF CONTRERAS OR ANY CHILEAN OFFICER AND AT BEST POSSIBLY PREPARED TO TRY THEM IN CHILE. RATIONALE FOR SELECTING VALENZUELA TO HANDLE A U.S. EXTRADITION REQUEST IS DIFFICULT TO COMPREHEND. FINALLY,

IF VALENZUELA WERE TO TAKE SUCH A NEW ASSIGNMENT IN SANTIAGO AS LATE AS OCTOBER 1, HE WOULD FIND THE EXTRADITION REQUESTS ALREADY PENDING FOR SOMETIME WITH THE CHILEAN SUPREME COURT AND PRESSURES GROWING RAPIDLY.

3. WE WONDER IF VALENZUELA MAY INDEED BE REPORTING MORE OR LESS WHAT HE THOUGHT HE HEARD IN SANTIAGO, BUT WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING THE CIRCUMSTANCES. PERHAPS PINOCHET GAVE SUCH A STORY TO VALENZUELA IN THE EXPECTATION THAT HE WOULD SPREAD IT ABROAD.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: BEFORE PROVIDING INSTRUCTIONS ON WHAT IF ANYTHING YOU MIGHT SAY TO VALENZUELA OR ATTEMPT TO ELICIT FROM HIM, WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE EMBASSY SANTIAGO'S COMMENTS ON THE VALENZUELA CLAIMS, WHICH SANTIAGO SHOULD SEND BOTH TO BUCHAREST AND TO DEPARTMENT. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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